

## Subchapter I — Day Camps for Children

**DCF 252.01 Scope.** Sections DCF 252.01 to 252.44 apply to day camps for children.

**DCF 252.02 Authority and purpose.**

(1) **AUTHORITY.** This subchapter is promulgated under the authority of s. 48.67, Stats., to establish licensing requirements under s. 48.65, Stats., for child care centers and day camps for children.

(2) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of children being cared for in day camps in Wisconsin.

(3) **CONSTRUCTION.** This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the objectives in sub. (2).

(4) **EXCEPTION TO A REQUIREMENT.** The department may grant an exception to a requirement of this chapter when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the department that granting the exception will not jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of the children served. A request for an exception shall be in writing, shall be sent to the department, and shall include justification for the requested action and an explanation of the alternative provisions planned to meet the intent of the requirement.

**Note:** A request for an exception to a requirement of this chapter should be sent to the appropriate regional office of the Department's Division of Early Care and Education. See Appendix A for addresses of those regional offices.

*The Request for Exception form is the preferred format for the request. A request in the form of correspondence will be accepted as an alternative. The exception request must include the rule number for which the exception is being requested; the signature of the licensee or the person previously delegated in writing by the licensee to have the authority to sign official documents or correspondence; and the alternative protection(s) to be provided in lieu of meeting the rule.*

*Action on implementation of the exception request may not be taken by the licensee until an affirmative response is received from the department.*

**DCF 252.03 Included and excluded care arrangements.** This chapter applies to all day camps but it does not include family child care centers regulated under ch. DCF 250, group child care centers regulated under ch. DCF 251 or to any of the following:

**Note:** Section 48.65, Stats., exempts parents, guardians and certain other relatives; public and parochial (private) schools; persons employed to come to the home of the child's parent to provide care for less than 24 hours per day; and counties, cities, towns, school districts and libraries that provide programs for children primarily intended for social or recreational purposes from the requirement for a license. As specified under s. 49.155(4), Stats., or s. DCF 201.04(1), programs, other than those operated by public schools, are required to be licensed by the department or certified by a county agency in order to be eligible to receive a child care subsidy.

*Residential camps are licensed under DHS 175. A program must be licensed as a residential camp if the children stay overnight for 4 or more consecutive nights.*

*Camps offering an overnight activity for children enrolled in the camp that occurs on the premises of a licensed day camp may do so provided that parents are informed that the camp is not licensed during that time period. If the camp wishes to operate during this time as a licensed facility, an exception must be requested. Camps should also check with their insurance company to ensure coverage during this time.*

(1) Group lessons to develop a talent or skill, such as dance or music lessons, social group meetings and activities, and group athletic activities.

(1m) Care and supervision of children in a program, including religious education classes, which operates no more than 4 hours a week.

**(2)** Care and supervision while the parents are on the premises and are engaged in shopping, recreation or other non-work activities.

*Non-working parents on premises means a care situation in which a parent of every child in care is on the premises. Day camps serving industry, colleges, universities or employer-based day camps where parents may be employed or attending classes on the same premises must be licensed.*

**(3)** Seasonal programs of 10 days or less duration in any 3-month period, including day camps, vacation bible school and holiday child care programs.

**(4)** Care and supervision in emergency situations.

**(5)** Care and supervision while the parent is employed on the premises if the parent's child receives care and supervision for no more than 3 hours a day.

**(6)** Care and supervision at the site while the parent who is a recipient of temporary assistance to needy families or Wisconsin Works is involved in orientation, enrollment or initial assessment prior to the development of an employability plan.